Implications of Recent Supreme Court ruling on Industrial Strikes

2096. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since studied the implications of the recent Supreme Court ruling that even a legal strike would entail wage loss unless the strike was justified in the larger interest of the society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The essence of the judgement of the Supreme Court is that strike period wages should not be paid to workers unless the strike is both legal and justified. Copies of the judgement have been sent to the Lobour Departments of various State Governments and major public sector undertakings requesting them to bring the contents of the judgement to the notice of all concerned for guidance.

Expert Committee on Beedi Workers

2097. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLIAPPA:
SHRI S., AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in setting up an Expert Committee on Beedi Workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that wideranging representations have been recieved by Labour Minister to set up an Expert Committee on Tobacco; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) A tripartite Central Advisory Committee is there to advise the Central Government on matters relating to beedi workers welfare. Likewise, State Advisory Committees have been set up at the State level. Beyond that, there is no proposal under consideration at present to constitute an Expert Committee on Beedi Workers by the Ministry of Labour.

(b) and (c) The various representations including from Central Trade Unions have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and a reply clarifying the position as advised by the Minsitry of Health and Family Welfare has been sent to the Central Trade Unions.

Census about Beedi Workers in Tamil Nadu

2098. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLIAPPA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 1991 census figures have been studied to update the beedi workers census in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what distinctions are there between the last two census in case of beedi workers in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been deterioration in their living standards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Occupational classification of workers industry-wise including beedi workers as per 1991 census is not available at present.

(c) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

National Wage Board for Raising the Bonus Ceiling etc.

2099. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Wage Board or panel is proposed to be, or has been, set

up to consider the question of raising the bonus ceiling revising Dearness Allowance and to introduce pensions scheme for public sector employees;

(b) if so, what are its precise composition and terms of reference; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) There is no proposal to set up a National Wage Board or Panel to consider the issues of Bonus ceiling, Dearness allowance and Pension Scheme for Central Public Sector employees.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Strike call by various Trade Unions of NTC Mills

2100. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any strike call was given by various trade unions of NTC mills recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for strike calls;

(c) whether NTC modernisation scheme which TUs demand to be implemented is not cleared by the Cabinet;

(d) what are the drawbacks or the limitations of the Scheme according the experts who are not for the implementation of the scheme; and

(e) whether textile research institutions have cleared the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The textile Research Associations had prepered a plan for modernisation of 79 mills at an investment of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The modernisation plan *inter-alia* envisages restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills. The Special Tripartite Committee on NTC matters in the Labour Ministry had recommended that the NTC mills as well as its taken over mills can be made viable by modernisation as proposed by the Textile Research Association.

A Turn Around Plan for the NTC is under consideration of the Government. Since the cases of 8 subsidiaries of NTC stand referred to the BIFR, any scheme that may finally emerge would also require the concurrence of the BIFR before implementation.

Right to Employment as a Fundamental Right

2101. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:
SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare the right to employment as a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the necessary legislation will be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Autonomous Hill Development Board in Uttar Pradesh

2102. SHRI J.S. RAJU:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for constituting an Autonomous Development Board for the development of hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh has been pending for decision with the Union Government;